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OHIO RIVER BASIN

SANDY RUN, SOMERSET COUNTY



PENNSYLVANIA

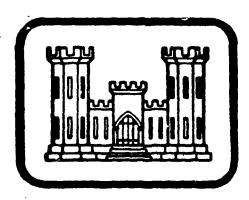
2 BIGAN DAM

MDI ID NO. PA-237 DER ID NO. 56-94

_M. K. BIGAN

3 PHASE I INSPECTION REPORT

1 NATIONAL DAM INSPECTION PROGRAM



Prepared By

L. ROBERT KIMBALL & ASSOCIATES

CONSULTING ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS
EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
15931

Contract DACW31-81-C-0012

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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PREFACE

This report is prepared under guidance contained in the Recommended Guidelines for Safety Inspection of Dams, for Phase I Investigations. Copies of these guidelines may be obtained from the Office of Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C. 20314. The purpose of a Phase I investigation is to identify expeditiously those dams which may pose hazards to human life or property. The assessment of the general condition of the dam is based upon available data and visual inspections. Detailed investigation, and analyses involving topographic mapping, subsurface investigations, testing, and detailed computational evaluations are beyond the scope of a Phase I investigation; however, the investigation is intended to identify any need for such studies.

In reviewing this report, it should be realized that the reported condition of the dam is based on observations of field conditions at the time of inspection along with data available to the inspection team. In cases where the reservoir was lowered or drained prior to inspection, such action, while improving the stability and safety of the dam, removes the normal load on the structure and may obscure certain conditions which might otherwise be detectable if inspected under the normal operating environment of the structure.

It is important to note that the condition of a dam depends on numerous and constantly changing internal and external conditions, and is evolutionary in nature. It would be incorrect to assume that the present condition of the dam will continue to represent the condition of the dam at some point in the future. Only through frequent inspections can unsafe conditions be detected and only through continued care and maintenance can these conditions be prevented or corrected.

Phase I inspections are not intended to provide detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analyses. In accordance with the established Guidelines, the spillway design flood is based on the estimated "Probable Maximum Flood" for the region (greatest reasonably possible storm runoff), or fractions thereof. The spillway design flood provides a measure of relative spillway capacity and serves as an aid in detemining the need for more detailed hydrologic and hydraulic studies, considering the size of the dam, its general condition and the downstream damage potential.

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PHASE I REPORT NATIONAL DAM INSPECTION REPORT

NAME OF DAM
STATE LOCATED
COUNTY LOCATED
STREAM
DATES OF INSPECTION
COORDINATES

1

Bigan Dam Pennsylvania Somerset Sandy Run June 4, 1981 and June 15, 1981 Lat: 40°11' Long: 78°48.2'

ASSESSMENT

The assessment of Bigan Dam is based upon visual observations made at the time of inspection, review of available records and data, hydraulic and hydrologic computations and past operational performance.

Bigan Dam appears to be in poor condition and modifications to the dam have apparently been in progress for several years. The reservoir pool is maintained at a reduced level due to a directive from the Commonwealth pending the completion of design modifications to the structure. Due to the questionable condition of the earthen embankment section near the right abutment, the static stability of the structure is questionable. The spillway for the dam is a temporary structure, and a new spillway is planned at the dam. The owner should be urged to complete the construction of the facility as soon as possible. The completion of the structure should include an assessment of the earthen embankment section near the right abutment, and the stability of the section should be evaluated.

The drainline valve was observed to be in the open position during the inspection. Flow through the drainline was discharging beyond the downstream toe of the dam.

Bigan Dam is a high hazard-small size dam. The recommended spillway design flood (SDF) for a dam of this size and classification is in the range of 1/2 PMF to PMF. Based on the downstream potential for loss of more than a few lives, the spillway design flood (SDF) has been selected as the PMF.

The visual observations, review of available data, hydrologic and hydraulic calculations and past operational performance indicate that the Bigan Dam is capable of controlling approximately 50% of the PMF. The spillway is classified as inadequate as it cannot pass the spillway design flood (PMF)

BIGAN DAM PA 237

The following recommendations and remedial measures should be instituted immediately.

- 1. An assessment should be made of the earthen embankment section near the right abutment of the dam. Observations made during the inspection indicate that the material is relatively uncompact and easily erodable. A stability analysis of the earthen embankment section should be made by a registered professional engineer knowledgeable in dam design and analysis.
- 2. A reduced level in the reservoir should be maintained until the analysis of the embankment and the spillway is completed and construction of modifications are completed.
- 3. Final construction at the facilities should include final grading of the embankment crest and slopes to include the placement of riprap on the upstream slope as indicated on the design drawings and the removal of the trees on the downstream slope. The top of dam elevation should be consistent along the entire length of the crest with the top of dam elevation equalling the top elevation of the spillway abutments. Protective vegetation should be supplied for the embankment crest and slopes. All proposed modifications should be completed as soon as possible.
- 4. A regularly scheduled maintenance and operation plan should be prepared and implemented upon completion of the project to insure continued safe operation of the structure.
- 5. A warning system should be developed to warn downstream residents of large spillway discharges or imminent failure of the dam.
- 6. A safety inspection program should be implemented with inspections at regular intervals by qualified personnel.
- 7. Positive upstream closure should be provided for the drainline, or the drainline should be plugged and some other means devised to drain the reservoir. An alternate method for draining the reservoir should not include a pressurized pipe through the embankment.

BIGAN DAM PA 237

SUBMITTED BY:

PROPESTON A

L. ROBERT KIMBALL & ASSOCIATES
CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

8/6/81

Date

R. Jeffrey Kimball, P.E.

APPROVED BY:

28 Ang 81

JAMES W. PECK

Colonel, Corps of Engineers

District Engineers



Overview of Bigan Dam

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PHASE I NATIONAL DAM INSPECTION PROGRAM

BIGAN DAM NDI. I.D. NO. PA 237 DER I.D. NO. 50-94

SECTION 1 PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 General.

- a. Authority. The National Dam Inspection Act, Public Law 92-367, authorized the Secretary of the Army, through the Corps of Engineers, to initiate a program of inspection of dams throughout the United States.
- b. Purpose. The purpose of the inspection is to determine if the dam constitutes a hazard to human life or property.

1.2 Description of Project.

a. Dam and Appurtenances. Bigan Dam is an earthfill dam, 1800 feet long and 24 feet high. The crest width of the dam varies, with the majority of the crest being 15 feet wide. The downstream slope of the dam varies from 2H:1V to 1.5H:1V. The upstream slope of the dam has a relatively consistent slope of 2H:1V. The dam is still under construction, and no protective vegetation exists on the crest or slopes of the dam.

The spillway for the dam exists near the left abutment of the embankment section. The spillway is still under construction, and a temporary roadway exists at the entrance to the spillway. Three 24" diameter corrugated metal pipes have been placed through the temporary roadway at the entrance to the spillway channel. The spillway consists of an open earth cut trapezoidal channel. A spillway discharge channel, 300 feet long, discharges flows from the spillway into the natural stream beyond the downstream toe of the dam.

The drainline facilities for the reservoir consist of a 12" diameter cast iron pipe through the embankment located approximately 800 feet right of the spillway. The control facility for the drainline exists at the downstream end of the line.

b. Location. The dam is located on Sandy Run, approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Windber, Paint Township, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Bigan Dam can be located on the Windber, PA. U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quadrangle.

- c. Size Classification. Bigan Dam is a small size dam (24 feet high, 210 acre-feet).
- d. Hazard Classification. Bigan Dam is a high hazard dam. One home is located approximately 500 feet downstream and west of the dam. Two additional homes are located within two miles downstream of the dam. Downstream conditions indicate that the loss of more than a few lives and significant property damage is probable should the structure fail.
- e. Ownership. Bigan Dam is owned by Mr. M. H. Bigan. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Mr. M.H. Bigan 421 Bigan Drive Windber, Pennsylvania 15963 814/467-9700

- f. Purpose of Dam. The dam is utilized by the owner for the purposes of fire protection and recreation.
- g. Design and Construction History. The dam was originally constructed sometime around 1957 by the owner. Damages to the spillway and embankment occurred in July 1977, due to heavy rains in the Johnstown area. Correspondence in the DER file, dated August 3, 1977, indicates that the owner was notified that an inspection had occurred at the site. The inspection disclosed that the dam had been overtopped and also disclosed several items that were in need of future attention. The owner was requested to retain the services of a registered professional engineer to make an in-depth study of the condition of the dam. No later correspondence was located in the file which reported the results of the study.

Neilan Engineers, Inc., of Somerset, Pennsylvania had been retained to design modifications to improve the condition of the dam, as directed in the August 3, 1977 correspondence between the owner and the Division of Dams and Encroachments.

The modifications designed by the Neilan Engineers, Inc., included the restoration of the embankment and the design of a new spillway for the dam. The embankment modifications included the slopes graded to 2.5H:IV slopes with a 15 foot crest width. The top of dam elevation was 2070.0. Twelve inch riprap was to be placed along the upstream slope of the dam.

The spillway modifications included the construction of a rein-

forced concrete weir with a grouted riprap approach and a concrete channel bottom in the area of the embankment. A 10 foot long grouted riprap section was designed at the outlet for the spillway and the discharge channel protected with 12" diameter riprap. The left bank of the spillway was to be on a 5H:1V slope and the right bank of the spillway on a 10H:1V slope. The crest elevation of the concrete weir was designed to be 2065.0. Overflow pipes were designed to be constructed through the concrete control section, but it was reported by the owner that the overflow pipes were to be deleted from the design.

h. Normal Operating Procedures. The reservoir is currently maintained in a near drained condition. The drainline valve at the structure remains in an open position as directed by the State.

1.3 Pertinent Data.

a. Drainage Area.

2.0 square miles

b. Discharge at Dam Site (cfs).

Maximum flood at dam site (July, 1977)	Unknown
Drainline capacity at normal pool	Unknown
Spillway capacity at top of dam	2710

c. <u>Elevation (MSL) (feet)</u>. - Field survey based on an assumed top of dam elevation for the original embankment, 2070.5 feet, design drawings and U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quadrangle.

Top of dam - low point	2068.2
Top of dam - design height	2070.0
Pool elevation at time of inspection	2059.8
Spillway crest - channel bottom	2060.5
- invert (3) 24" diameter CMP's	2060.5
 top of temporary roadway 	2064.3
Maximum pool - design surcharge	2070.0
Upstream portal - 12" diameter cast iron pipe	Unknown
Downstream portal - 12" diameter cost iron pipe	2044.5
Streambed at centerline of dam	Unknown
Naximum tailwater	Unknown
Toe of dam	2044.5

d. Reservoir (feet).

Length of maximum pool	•	1500
Length of normal pool		1000

e. Storage (acre-feet).

Normal pool 55 Top of dam 210

f. Reservoir Surface (acres).

Top of dam 24.6
Normal pool 15.8
Spillway crest 15.8

g. Dam.

Type Earthfill Length (excluding spillway) 1300 feet Height 24 feet Top width (minimum) 15 feet Side slopes - upstream 2H: 1V to 2.5H: 1V - downstream 2.5H: 1V Zoning Unknown Impervious core Unknown Cutoff Unknown Grout curtain Unknown

h. Reservoir Drain.

Type

Type

Length (approximate)

Closure

Access

Regulating facilities

12" diameter
cast iron pipe
110 feet
Gate on downstream
end of pipe
Downstream toe
Gate valve

i. Spillway. (temporary construction)

Length (bottom width)

Crest elevation (channel bottom)

Upstream channel

earth cut with discharge channel

38 feet
2060.5
Lake with

temporary earthen
berm at approach
to control section
Trapezoidal discharge
channel to natural
stream

Trapezoidal

SECTION 2 ENGINEERING DATA

- 2.1 <u>Design</u>. Review of available information in the files of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Resources, revealed that some correspondence and various original design drawings were available for review. Design drawings relative to the modifications to the dam were supplied by the owner, through the owner's engineer (Neilan Engineers, Inc.).
- 2.2 Construction. Final construction of the modifications to the earthen embankment and spillway are as yet incomplete. Final shaping of the embankment crest and flopes remains to be completed, and the spillway is a temporary structure.
- 2.3 Operation. No planned construction schedule exists for the dam. Work on the dam and spillway is performed on an unscheduled basis.

2.4 Evaluation.

- a. Availability. Engineering data were provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Dams and Waterway Management and the owner's engineer (Neilan Engineers Inc.).
- b. Adequacy. This Phase I Report is based on the visual inspection and hydrologic and hydraulic analysis. Sufficient information exists to complete a Phase I Report.

SECTION 3 VISUAL INSPECTION

3.1 Findings.

Control of the second s

- a. General. The onsite inspection of Bigan Dam was conducted by personnel of L. Robert Kimball and Associates on June 4, 1981 and June 15, 1981. Prior to the inspection, the inspection team met with the owner and the owner's engineer, Mr. Lynn Young. Information relative to the proposed design were discussed. The owner's engineer supplied the inspection team with a set of design drawings. Neither the owner nor his engineer accompanied the inspection team during either inspection. The inspection consisted of:
 - 1. Visual inspection of the retaining structure, abutments and toe.
 - 2. Examination of the spillway facilities, exposed portion of any outlet works and other appurtenant works.
 - 3. Observations affecting the runoff potential of the drainage
 - 4. Evaluation of the downstream area hazard potential.
- b. Dam. The dam is still under construction. The majority of fill placement on the embankment appears to be complete. Final shaping of the embankment slopes and crest is required. Surface erosion on the embankment crest and slopes is considerable. Ponding of water was observed on the embankment crest in various locations due to the uneven condition of the crest. It was also observed during the inspection that a significant portion of the embankment is wider than indicated on the design drawings.

It was noted during the inspection that a majority of the downstream slope of the dam ranges from 2H:1V to 2.5H:1V, although several areas along the upstream slope were noted to be relatively steep. A portion of the upstream slope of the dam near the right abutment showed visible tension cracks along the crest of the dam. The embankment section near the right abutment of the dam was observed to be very soft and relatively uncompact. The material in this area was considered as being highly erosive and it was noted that failure of the embankment in this area could potentially occur prior to overtopping of the dam. The placement of riprap on the upstream slope of the dam has not yet been completed. The earthen embankment section to the right of the spillway had a significantly increased crest width. The crest width in the area was greater than 50 feet.

c. Appurtenant Structures. The spillway for the dam is located at the left abutment of the embankment. The spillway is a temporary structure. The spillway is a trapezoidal open cut spillway with a

trapezoidal discharge channel approximately 300 feet long. A temporary earth berm exists along the approach to the channel. Three 24" diameter corrugated metal pipes exist through the earth berm. The berm serves as a roadway across the channel. It was noted during the inspection that during periods of high discharges through the channel, the roadway would quickly erode away. The bottom width of the channel in the area of the embankment was measured to be 38 feet. The side slopes of the control section for the channel were estimated to be 1H: IV. The existing channel slopes are formed by the izinal embankment. The discharge channel for the spillway appears to be nearly complete with the exception of the placement of riprap in the channel.

The waterlevel in the reservoir was below the existing spillway crest and planned normal pool elevation. The drainline for the reservoir is located approximately 800 feet right of the spillway. The drainline consists of a 12" diameter cast iron pipe. A gate valve exists on the downstream end of the pipe. The valve was in the open position, and flow through the pipe was discharging during the inspection. Flow through the drainline discharges beyond the downstream toe of the dam into the natural stream. Small trees and orush were growing along the downstream slope and beyond the toe in the area between the spillway and the drainline. This condition was not considered as being significant due to the relative width of the embankment in this area. Final sloping of the downstream slope in this area should include the removal of the trees as a precaution against future slope instability in the area.

- d. Reservoir Area. The visible portion of the watershed area was observed to be covered almost entirely by forested lands. The watershed slopes in the area of the reservoir were observed to be relatively moderate. The reservoir slopes did not appear to be susceptible to massive landslides, which would affect the storage volume of the reservoir or cause overtopping of the day by displacing water.
- e. <u>Downstream Channel</u>. The downstream channel for the Bigan Dam consists of Sandy Run, which is tributary of the Roaring Fork Creek. Sandy Run converges with the Roaring Fork Creek approximately 1/2 mile downstream of the dam. One home is located approximately 500 feet downstream and west of the dam. Two additional homes are located within two miles downstream of the dam. Downstream conditions indicate the loss of more than a few lives and significant property damage is probable should the structure fail.
- 3.2 Evaluation. The dam is still under construction. A reduced pool elevation has been maintained at the facility for several years. It is apparent that a majority of the proposed fill has been placed on the embankment. The prolonged time of construction and the lack of

erosion protection on the upstream slope of the dam has allowed deterioration of the upstream slope of the dam to occur in several areas.

It appears as though a 200 foot section of the embankment near the right abutment was placed in a relatively uncompacted manner. The fill material was visibly different from the majority of the embankment, and it was noted that the material was highly erosive and relatively soft. Failure of this section of the embankment was noted as possibly occurring prior to overtopping of the embankment. The low spot on the embankment crest was determined to be in this area.

The spillway is a temporary structure. The evaluation of the hydraulic features associated with this dam were conducted based on the present condition of the spillway.

SECTION 4 OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- 4.1 <u>Procedures</u>. The reservoir is presently in a near drained condition. The continued construction at the facility is on an unscheduled basis.
- 4.2 Maintenance of the Dam. Since the dam is still under construction, no planned maintenance schedule exists for the dam.
- 4.3 <u>Maintenance of Operating Facilities</u>. No planned maintenance exists. The dam is still under construction and the reservoir drainline is maintained in an open position.
- 4.4 Warning System in Effect. There is no warning system in effect to warn downstream residents of large spillway discharges or imminent failure of the dam.
- 4.5 Evaluation. The construction of the dam is as yet not complete. No maintenance or operational procedures are necessary at this time. A planned maintenance and operation program should be prepared and implemented upon completion of the dam.

An emergency action plan should be available for every dam in the high and significant hazard categories. Such plans should outline actions to be taken by the operator to minimize downstream effects of an emergency, and should include an effective warning system. No emergency action plan has been developed.

SECTION 5 HYDRAULICS AND HYDROLOGY

5.1 Evaluation of Features.

- a. <u>Design Data</u>. No detailed information was available relative to the hydraulic and hydrologic design of the dam. It was reported by the design engineer, the Neilan Engineers, Inc., that the C-curve was used in the spillway design.
- b. Experience Data. No rainfall, runoff or reservoir level data were available. The dam was overtopped during the July 1977 flood caused by heavy rainfalls in the Johnstown area.
- c. <u>Visual Observations</u>. The spillway was under construction. Rough excavation had occurred in the area of the proposed spillway. A temporary roadway (earth berm) existed across the approach to the spillway channel. Three 24" diameter corrugated metal pipes exist through the earth berm. It was the judgement of the inspection team that the analysis of the spillway would assume the rapid deterioration of the earth berm at the approach to the spillway. The spillway channel walls in the area of the control section were cut into the original embankment in the area. The cut slopes were observed to be approximately lh:lV. The construction of the spillway discharge channel appeared to be nearly complete, except for final dressing of the channel bottom and walls and the placement of riprap in the channel.

The crest of the dam was relatively uneven. The low spot on the embankment crest was determined to be near the right abutment of the dam.

d. Overtopping Potential. Overtopping potential was investigated through the development of the probable maximum flood (PMF) for the watershed and the subsequent routing of the PMF and fractions of the PMF through the reservoir and spillway.

The Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, has directed that the HEC-1 Dam Safety Version systemized computer program be utilized. The program was prepared by the Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Davis, California, July 1978. The major methodologies or key input data for this program are discussed briefly in Appendix D.

5.2 <u>Evaluation Assumptions</u>. To enable completion of the hydraulic and hydrologic analysis for this structure, it was necessary to make the following assumptions.

- 1. The pool elevation in the reservoir was assumed to be at the invert elevation of the three 24" diameter corrugated metal pipes, 2060.5.
- 2. The earth berm which exists across the approach to the spillway was assumed to undergo rapid deterioration during initial discharges through the spillway.
- 3. No discharge was considered through the 12" diameter cast iron pipe drainline.
- 4. The top of dam was considered to be the low spot elevation, 2068.2. Overtopping of the embankment crest is to be determined through the \$L, \$V, (HEC-1) program option.
- 5.3 Summary of Overtopping Analysis. Complete summary sheets for the computer output are presented in Appendix D.

Peak inflow (PMF) Spillway capacity 5793 cfs 2710 cfs

a. Spillway Adequacy Rating. The Spillway Design Flood (SDF) is based on the hazard and size classification of the dam. The recommended spillway design flood for a dam of this size and hazard classification is in the range of 1/2 PMF to PMF. Three homes exist within two miles downstream of the dam. The potential for loss of more than a few lives is probable should the structure fail. Due to the downstream potential for loss of live and significant property damage, the spillway design flood has been selected as the PMF.

Based on the following definition provided by the Corps of Engineers, the spillway is rated as inadequate as a result of our hydrologic analysis.

Inadequate - All high hazard dams which do not pass the spillway design flood (PMF).

The spillway and reservoir are capable of controlling approximately 50% of the PMF without overtopping the embankment low spot.

5.4 Summary of Dam Breach Analysis. Failure of the embankment is considered possible during a storm of a magnitude of less than 50% of the PMF. Due to observations made during the inspection, failure of the embankment in the area of the right abutment was considered probable due to piping in the area. Approximately 200 feet of the embankment in the area of the right abutment was observed to consist of relatively uncompact pervious material.

A dam breach analysis was not conducted since the location of the breach (right abutment) would be such that only a partial failure would occur. It was the judgement of the evaluating engineer that the partial failure would not significantly increase the downstream flooding

from that which would exist just prior to the partial failure. The reservoir elevation would be less than 2063.0, and the bottom of the breach would be estimated at approximately 1063.0.

It is estimated that design modifications to the spillway would enable the spillway to safely discharge approximately 3300 cfs (59% of the PdF). Since the modified spillway was considered as being capable of safely passing in excess of 50% of the PMF, no breach analysis was required. The existing temporary and planned modified spillways are considered inadequate, but not seriously inadequate.

SECTION 6 STRUCTURAL STABILITY

6.1 Evaluation of Structural Stability.

- a. Visual Observations. The earth embankment near the right abutment of the structure consists of relatively uncompact and easily erodable material. Several areas on the embankment were noted to be very soft, and small slides were noted on the upstream slope of the dam. A tension crack was observed in this area along the upstream edge of the crest. Failure of the embankment in the area of the right abutment was considered probable due to piping. The pool elevation in the reservoir is maintained at a reduced level, and no determination could be made relative to seepage in this area. No obvious seepage was observed on the downstream slope or along the toe of the embankment in the areas at or below the reduced pool elevation. Based on observations made during the inspection, relative to the embankment, the static stability of the structure at proposed normal pool conditions is questionable.
- b. <u>Design and Construction Data</u>. No information was available in the DER files relative to the original construction of the dam. Original design drawings were available for review. Information relative to the proposed modifications to the structure were supplied by the owner's engineer. Pertinent design drawings are included in Appendix E of this report. The modifications were designed by the Neilan Engineers, Inc., of Somerset, Pennsylvania.
 - c. Operating Records. No operating records exist for this dam.
- d. Post Construction Changes. Modifications to the original structure are currently in progress. The modifications to the original dam were required due to a partial failure of the structure during heavy rainfall associated with the July 1977 flooding in and around the Johnstown area. The owner was ordered to retain a professional engineer to design modifications to the dam and work has been in progress relative to design and construction since 1977.
- e. <u>Evaluation</u>. Based on observations made during the inspection, the static stability during proposed normal pool conditions is questionable. An in-depth analysis of the embankment is required to determine the actual condition of the embankment relative to the stability of the structure.

No seepage was observed on the downstream slope or along the toe of the dam on those portions of the embankment which are below the current pool elevation. No final assessment relative to potential seepage could be made at the time of inspection due to the reduced pool level in the reservoir.

A construction schedule should be prepared to insure that final construction at the dam is completed within a reasonable period. The potential exists for excessive rainfall to raise the pool level in the reservoir to an elevation which could begin to cause concern relative to the stability of the structure, due to the observed conditions of the embankment near the right abutment.

f. Seismic Stability. The dam is located in seismic zone l. Normally it may be assumed that a dam in this zone presents no hazard from earthquake provide: static stability conditions are satisfactory and conventional safety margins exist. No known seismic stability analyses have been performed. Due to the questionable condition of the earthen embankment near the right abutment, no assessment of the seismic stability of the structure can be made at this time.

SECTION 7 ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS/REMEDIAL MEASURES

7.1 Dam Assessment.

a. Safety. Bigan Dam appears to be in poor condition and modifications to the dam have apparently been in progress for several years. The reservoir pool is maintained at a reduced level due to a directive from the State pending the completion of design modifications to the structure. Due to the questionable condition of the embankment section near the right abutment, the static stability of the structure during proposed normal pool conditions is questionable. The spillway for the dam is a temporary structure, and a new spillway is planned at the daw.

The drainline valve was observed to be in the open position during the inspection. Flow through the drainline was discharging beyond the downstream toe of the dam.

The construction of modifications to the dam has been an on-going process for several years. Due to the questionable stability of the embankment section near the right abutment and the potential for increased pool levels in the reservoir, the owner should be urged to complete the construction of the facility as soon as possible. The completion of the structure should include an assessment of the embankment near the right abutment, and the stability of the section should be evaluated.

Bigan Dam is a high hazard-small size dam. The recommended spillway design flood (SDF) for a dam of this size and classification is in the range of 1/2 PMF to PMF. One home is located approximately 500 feet downstream and west of the dam. Two additional homes are located within 2 miles downstream of the dam. Based on the downstream potential for loss of more than a few lives, the spillway design flood (SDF) has been selected as the PMF.

The visual observations, review of available data, hydrologic and hydraulic calculations and past operational performance indicate that the Bigan Dam is capable of controlling approximately 50% of the PMF. The spillway is classified as inadequate as it cannot pass the spillway design flood (PMF).

- b. Adeqacy of Information. Sufficient information is available to complete a Phase I report.
- c. Urgency. The recommendations suggested below should be implemented as scon as possible.

d. Necessity for Further Investigation. In order to accomplish some of the recommendations/remedial measures outlined below, further investigations will be required.

7.2 Recommendations/Remedial Measures.

- l. An assessment should be made of the earthen embankment section near the right abutment of the dam. Observations made during the inspection indicate that the material is relatively uncompact and easily erodable. A stability analysis of the earthen embankment section should be made by a registered professional engineer knowledgeable in dam design and analysis.
- 2. A reduced level in the reservoir should be maintained until the analysis of the embankment and the spillway is completed and construction of modifications are completed.
- 3. Final construction at the facilities should include final grading of the embankment crest and slopes to include the placement of riprap on the upstream slope as indicated on the design drawings and the removal of the trees on the downstream slope. The top of dam elevation should be consistent along the entire length of the crest with the top of dam elevation equalling the top elevation of the spillway abutments. Protective vegetation should be supplied for the embankment crest and slopes. All proposed modifications should be completed as soon as possible.
- 4. A regularly scheduled maintenance and operation plan should be prepared and implemented upon completion of the project to insure continued safe operation of the structure.
- 5. A warning system should be developed to warn downstream residents of large spillway discharges or imminent failure of the dam.
- o. A safety inspection program should be implemented with inspections at regular intervals by qualified personnel.
- 7. Positive upstream closure should be provided for the drainline, or the drainline should be plugged and some other means devised to drain the reservoir. An alternate method for draining the reservoir should not include a pressurized pipe through the embankment.

APPENDIX A CHECKLIST, VISUAL INSPECTION, PHASE I

CHECK LIST VISUAL INSPECTION PHASE I

	STATE Pennsylvania ID# PA 237	rain TEMPERATURE 70°	TAILWATER AT TIME OF INSPECTION Not applicable		and Associates	Associates	ates	azugozao
PHASE 1	COUNTY Somerset	Overcast with rain	ON 2059.8 H.S.L.		- L. Robert Kimball and Associates	L. Robert Kimball and Associates	Kimball and Associ	0.T. McConnell
	NAME OF DAM Bigan Dam	4, 1981 15,1981	POOL ELEVATION AT TIME, OF INSPECTION	INSPECTION PERSONNEL:	R. Jeffrey Kimball, P.E.	James T. Hockensuith - L.	0.T. McConnell - L. Robert Kimball and Associates	

EMBANKMENT

VISUAL EXAMINATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	REMARKS OR RECOMMENDATIONS
SURPACE CRACKS	A tension crack exists along the upstream edge of Portions fo the upstrethe crest on the earthen embankment section, near slope in the area have the right abutment. are not extensive.	Portions fo the upstream slope in the area have slid away. The observed slides are not extensive.
UNUSUAL MOVEMENT OR CRACKING AT OR BEYOND THE TOE	None noted.	
SLOUGHING OR EROSION OF EMBANKMENT AND ABUTMENT SLOPES	A portion of the earthen embankment section near the right abutment of the dam appeared relatively uncompacted. Erosion of the upstream slope in this area was evident.	The earthen section near the right abutment of the dam should be assessed relative to stability.
VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT OF THE CREST	VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL The dam is technically still under construction. ALIGNMENT OF THE CREST The embankment crest is irregular.	The embankment crest should be graded to an elevation consistent with the top of the spillway abutments prior to completion of the project.
RIPRAP FAILURES	None. Riprap is planned to be placed on the upstream face of the dam.	Riprap is planned for the upstream slope.

EMBANKHENT

VISUAL EXAMINATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	REMARKS OR RECOMENDATIONS
VEGETATION	The dam is technically still under construction.	Vegetation should be provided for the crest and embankment slopes prior to completion of the project.
JUNCTION OF EMBANKHENT AND ABUTHENT, SPILLMAY AND DAM	Under construction.	
ANY NOTICEABLE SEEPAGE	No observed seepage during the inspection.	The pool level of the reservoir is maintained at a reduced level. The facility should be reinspected when the pool elevation is at
STAFF GAUGE AND RECORDER	None.	normat poot.
DRAINS	None.	·

CONCRETE/MASONRY DAMS - NOT APPLICABLE

VISUAL EXAMINATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	REMARKS OR RECOMMENDATIONS
ANY NOTICEABLE SEEPAGE	Not applicable.	
STRUCTURE TO ABUTHENT/EMBANKMENT JUNCTIONS	Not applicable.	
DRAINS	Not applicable.	
WATER PASSAGES	.Not applicable.	
FOUNDATION	Not applicable.	

CONCRETE/MASONRY DAMS - NOT APPLICABLE

VISUAL EXAMINATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	REMARKS OF BECOMMENDATIONS
	Not applicable.	
SURFACE CRACKS CONCRETE SURFACES		
STRUCTURAL CRACKING	Not applicable.	
VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT	Not applicable.	
MONOLITH JOINTS	Not applicable.	
CONSTRUCTION JOINTS	Not applicable.	
STAFF GAUGE OR RECORDER	Not applicable.	

OUTLET WORKS

VISUAL EXAMINATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	REMARKS OR RECOMMENDATIONS
CRACKING AND SPALLING OF CONCRETE SURPACES IN OUTLET CONDUIT	Not applicable.	
INTAKE STRUCTURE	Not observed.	
OUTLET STRUCTURE	No formal outlet structure exists. The 12" diameter drainline outlets near the downstream toe of the dam.	Valve exists at the downstream end of the pipe.
OUTLET CHANKEL	Natural stream below dam.	
EMERGENCY GATE	Valve on downstream end of 12" diameter castiron pipe.	Positive upstream closure should be provided for the drainline, or the pipe should be plugged and some other mean devised to drain the reservoir.

UNGATED SPILLWAY

VISUAL EXAMINATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	REMARKS OR RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCRETE WEIR	The existing spillway is a temporary structure. The temporary spillway exists of a trapezoidal shaped, earth cut channel.	
APPROACH CHANNEL	Lake [earthen berm with culvert pipes exist at the entrance to the channel].	Assume earthen berm erodes during hydrologic and hydraullc analysis of spillway.
DISCHARGE CHANNEL	300 foot long trapezoidal channel.	Design drawings of modifications to the structure indicate that riprap is to be added to the channel bottom.
BRIDGE AND PIERS	None.	Owner reports that a bridge is planned to cross the spillway.

CATED SPILLMAY - NOT APPLICABLE

		ALTERNATION OR AECOMPICATION LONG
CONCRETE SILL	Not applicable.	
APPROACH CHANNEL.	Not applicable.	
DISCHARGE CHANNEL	Not applicable.	•
BRIDGE AND PIERS	Not applicable.	
CATES AND OPERATION EQUIPMENT	Not applicable.	

DOWNSTREAM CHANNEL

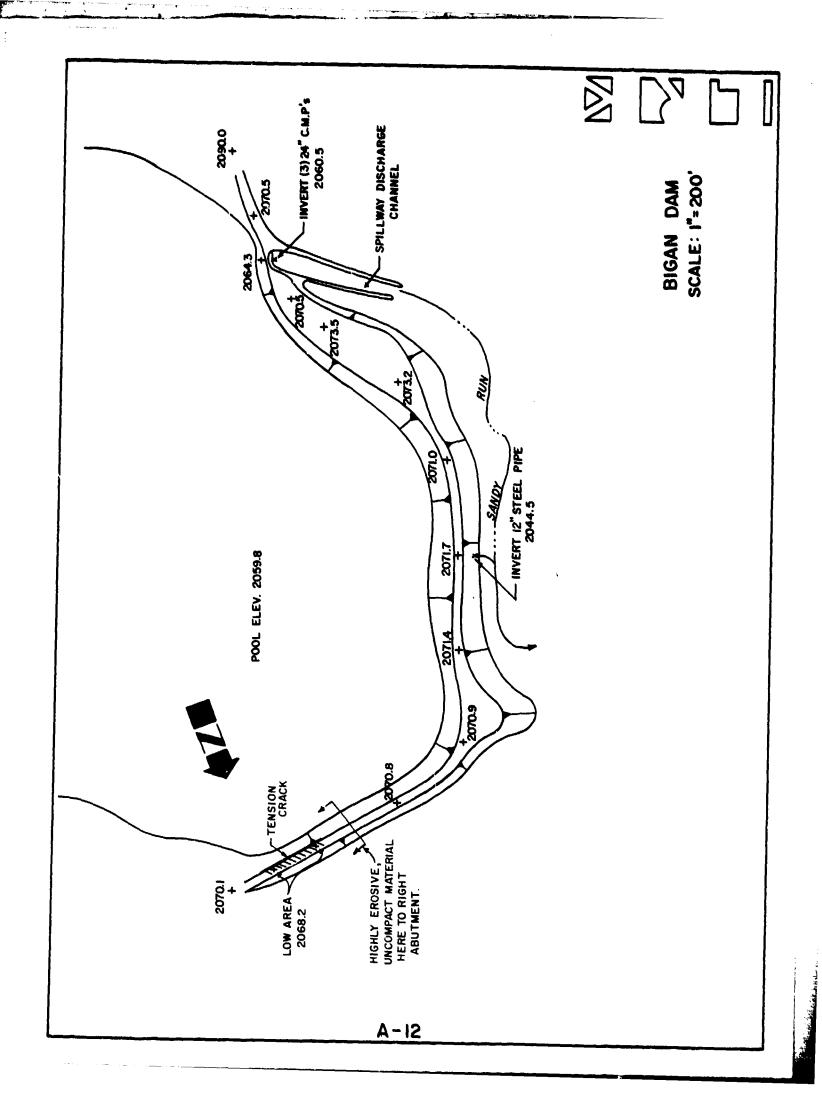
VISUAL EXAMINATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	BOWA BVC OB BECOME AND SALES
COMDITION (OBSTRUCTIONS, DEBRIS, ETC.)	The discharge channel for the Bigan Dam discharges flow from the spillway into the natural stream below the dam. No major obstructions were noted in the discharge channel.	SECURITY OF RECORDING LIGHT
SLOPES	Appear to be stable.	
APPROXIMATE NO. OF HOMES AND POPULATION	One home is located approximately 500 feet downstream and west of the dam. Two additional homes are located within two miles downstream of the dam. Downstream conditions indicate that loss of more than a few lives, and significant property damage is	The one home located approximately 500 feet downstream and west of the dam is estimated to exist approximately 2040.2

RESERVOIR

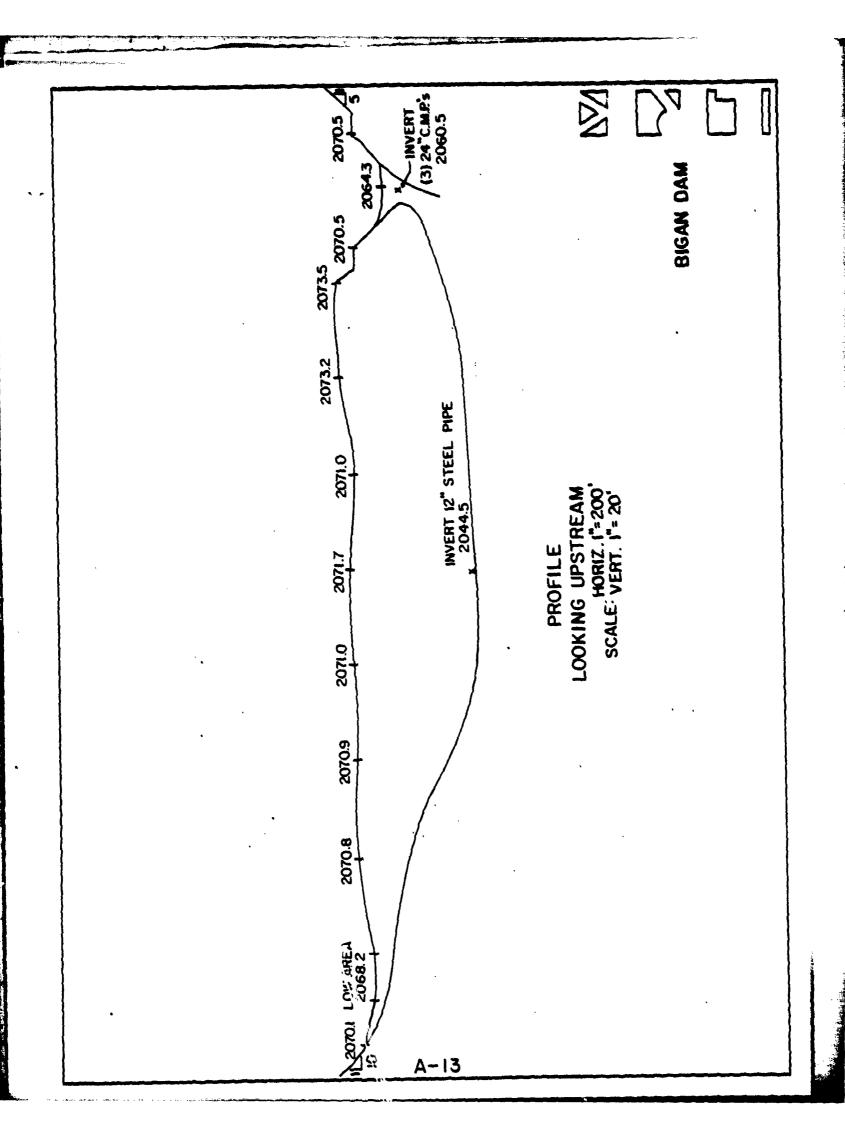
VISHAL PYANTNATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	REMARKS OR RECOMMENDATIONS
	Moderate.	
SLOPES		
	Unknown.	
SEDIMENTATION		

INSTRUMENTATION

VISUAL EXAMINATION OF	OBSERVATIONS	REMARKS OR RECOMMENDATIONS
MONUMENTATION/SURVEYS	None.	
OBSERVATION WELLS	None.	
WEIRS .	None.	·
PIEZOMETERS	None.	
OTHER	None.	



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APPENDIX B
CHECKLIST, ENGINEERING DATA, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, PHASE I

CHECK LIST ENCINEERING DATA DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION PHASE I

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NAME OF DAM Bigan Dam

PA 237

ID!

RDMARKS	AS-BUILT DRAWINGS None.	REGIONAL VICINITY MAP	CONSTRUCTION HISTORY	TYPICAL SECTIONS OF DAM	OUTLETS - PLAN · See Appendix E DETAILS - CONSTRAINTS - DISCHARGE RATINGS None.
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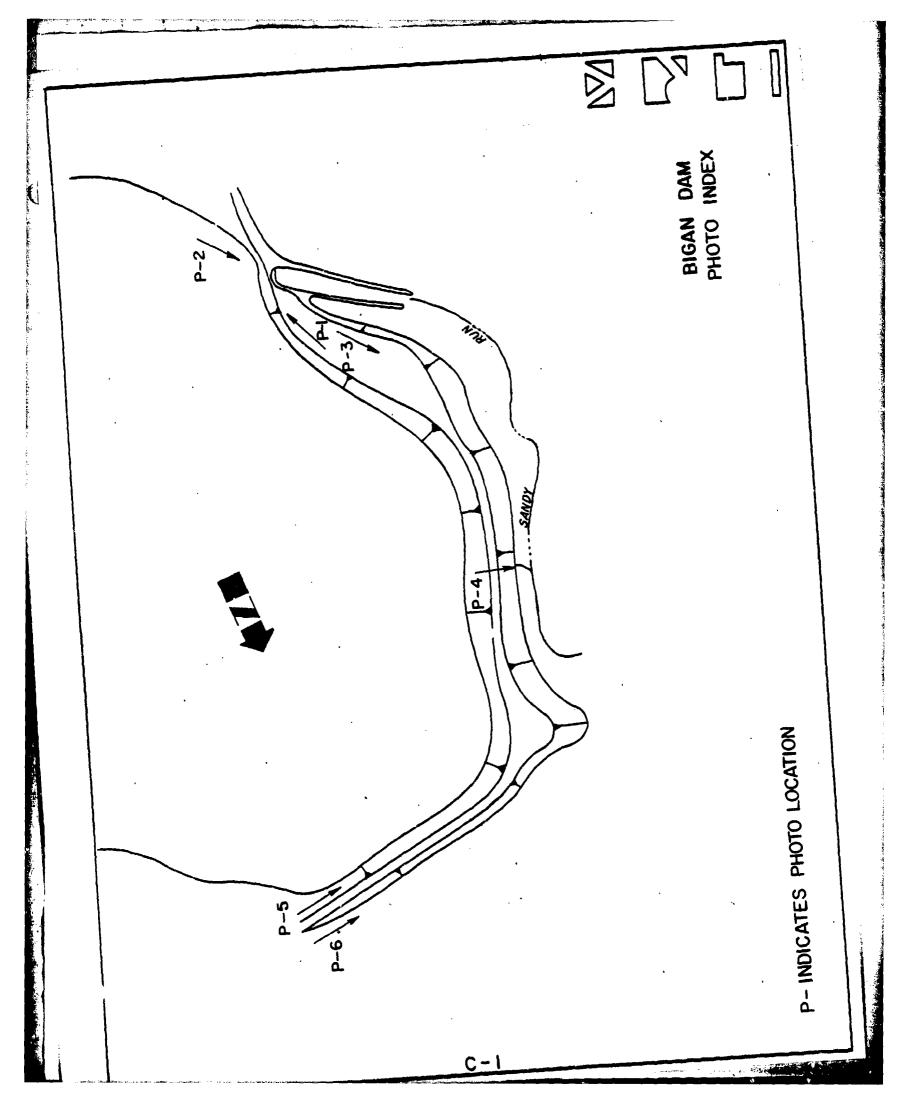
ITEM	REMARKS
DESIGN REPORTS	None.
GEOLOGY REPORTS	None.
DESIGN COMPUTATIONS HYDROLOGY & HYDRAULICS DAM STABILITY SEEPAGE STUDIES	None.
MATERIALS INVESTIGATIONS BORING RECORDS LABORATORY FIELD	None.
POST-CONSTRUCTION SURVEYS OF DAM	Surveys completed relative to current design modifications.
BORROW SOURCES	Reservoir area.

ITEM	REMARKS
MONITORING SYSTEMS	None.
MCDIFICATIONS	Dam is currently being modified. Modifications to embankment and spillway.
HIGH POOL RECORDS	None.
POST CONSTRUCTION ENCINEERING STUDIES AND REPORTS	None known to have occurred.
PRIOR ACCIDENTS OR FAILURE OF DAM DESCRIPTION REPORTS	Dam was overtopped during July, 1977. Minimal damage to the embankment. No detailed description or reports available.
MAINTENANCE OPERATION RECORDS	None.

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ITEM	RPMARKS
	See Appendix E.
SPILLHAY PLAN	
SECTIONS	
DETAILS	
OPERATING EQUIPMENT PLANS & DETAILS	None.

APPENDIX C PHOTOGRAPHS



BIGAN DAM PA 237

Sheet 1

Front

- (1) Upper left View of spillway approach. View towards the left abutment.
- (2) Upper right Close-up view of spillway approach and earthen berm across the approach to spillway. Note three corrugated metal pipes through the earthen berm.
- (3) Lower left View of across the crest of the dam. View towards the northwest.
- (4) Lower right Outlet for drainline. Note valve at outlet.

Sheet 1

Back

- (5) Upper left View of tension crack along upstream edge of crest. View towards the west.
- (6) Upper right View along the downstream slope of the northern embankment. View towards the west.
- (7) Lower left Downstream exposure.
- (8) Lower right Downstream exposure.

1,5 2,6 3,7 4,8











APPENDIX D HYDROLOGY AND HYDRAULICS

APPENDIX D HYDROLOGY AND HYDRAULICS

Methodology. The dam overtopping and breach analyses were accomplished using the systemized computer program HEC-1 (Dam Safety Investigation), September, 1978, prepared by the Hydrologic Engineering Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Davis, California. A brief description of the methodology used in the analysis is presented below.

l. <u>Precipitation</u>. The Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) is derived and determined from regional charts prepared from past rainfall records including "Hydrometeorological Report No. 33" prepared by the U.S. Weather Bureau.

The index rainfall may be reduced from 10% to 20% depending on watershed size by utilization of what is termed the HOP Brook adjustment factor. Distribution of the total rainfall is made by the computer program using distribution methods developed by the Corps.

2. <u>Inflow Hydrograph</u>. The hydrologic analysis used in development of the overtopping potential is based on applying a hypothetical storm to a unit hydrograph to obtain the inflow hydrograph for reservoir routing.

The unit hydrograph is developed using the Snyder method. This method requires calculation of several key parameters. The following list gives these parameters their definition and how they were obtained for these analysis.

Parameter .	Definition	Whore Obtained
Ct .	Coefficient representing variations of watershed	From Corps of Engineers*
L	Length of main stream channel miles	From U.S.G.S. 7.5 winute topgraphic
Lca	Length on main stream to centroid of watershed	From U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic
Сp	Peaking coefficient	From Corps of Engineers*
A	Watershed size	From U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic

*Developed by the Corps of Engineers on a regional basis for Pennsylvania.

3. Routing. Reservoir routing is accomplished by using Modified Plus routing techniques where the flood hydrograph is routed through reservoir storage. Hydraulic capacities of the outlet works, spillways and the crest of the dam are used as outlet controls in the routing.

The hydraulic capacity of the outlet works can either be calculated and input, or sufficient dimensions input, and the program will calculate an elevation discharge relationship.

Storage in the pool area is defined by an area - elevation relationship from which the computer calculates storage. Surface areas are either planimetered from available mapping or U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series topographic maps or taken from reasonably accurate design data.

- 4. <u>Dam Overtopping</u>. Using given percentages of the PMF, the computer program will calculate the percentage of the PMF, which can be controlled by the reservoir and spillway without the dam overtopping.
- 5. Dam Breach and Downstream Routing. The computer program is equipped to determine the increase in downstream flooding due to failure of the dam caused by overtopping. This is accomplished by routing both the pre-failure peak flow and the peak flow through the breach (calculated by the computer with given input assumptions) at a given point in time and determining the water depth in the downstream channel. Channel cross-sections taken from U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic maps were used in the downstream flood wave routing. Pre and post failure water depths are calculated at locations where cross-sections are input.

HYDROLOGY AND HYDRAULICS ANALYSIS DATA BASE

NAME OF DAM: Bigan Dam

PROBABLE MAXIMUM PRECIPITATION (PMP) = 24.0 inches

STATION	1	2	3
Station Description	Bigan		
Drainage Area (square miles)	2.0		
Cumulative Drainage Area (square miles)	2.0		
Adjustment of PMF for Drainage Area (%)(1) 6 hours 12 hours 24 hours 48 hours 72 hours	(Zone 7) 102 120 130 140 N/A		
Snyder Hydrograph Parameters Zone (2) Cp (3) Ct (3) L (miles) (4) Lca (miles) (4) tp = Ct(LxLca) 0.3 hrs.	24 0.45 1.60 1.61 0.57 1.56		
Spillway Data (temporary Crest Length (ft) Freeboard (ft) Discharge Coefficient Exponent	spillway) 38 7.7 C'=0.95 N/A		

⁽¹⁾ Hydrometeorological Report 33 (Figure 1), U.S. Weather Bureau and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1956.

⁽²⁾ Hydrological zone defined by Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, for determining Snyder's coefficients (C_p and C_t). (3) Snyder's Coefficients.

⁽⁴⁾L=Length of longest water course from outlet to basin divide. Lca=Length of water course from outlet to point opposite the centroid of drainage area.

CHECK LIST HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING DATA

DRAINAGE AREA CHARACTERISTICS: 2.0 eq.mi
ELEVATION TOP NORMAL POOL (STORAGE CAPACITY): 2060.5 [55.ac-fr]
ELEVATION TOP FLOOD CONTROL POOL (STORAGE CAPACITY): 2068.2 [210 ac-ft
ELEVATION MAXIMUM DESIGN POOL: 2070.0 [proposed]
ELEVATION TOP DAM: 2068.2 [low spot]
SPILLWAY CREST:
a. Elevation 2060.5
h Transcoidal channal
c. Width Bottom width = 38 feet
d. Length Not applicable
e. Location Spillover Left abutment
f. Number and Type of Gates None
OUTLET WORKS:
a. Type
b. Location <u>Mid-embankment</u>
c. Entrance inverts Unknown d. Exit inverts 2044.5
d. Exit inverts 2044.5
e. Emergency drawdown facilities 12" diameter cast iron pipe
HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL GAUGES:
a. TypeNone
b. LocationNone
c. RecordsNone
MAXIMUM NON-DAMAGING DISCHARGE: Unknown

Note: Elevations refer to MSL.

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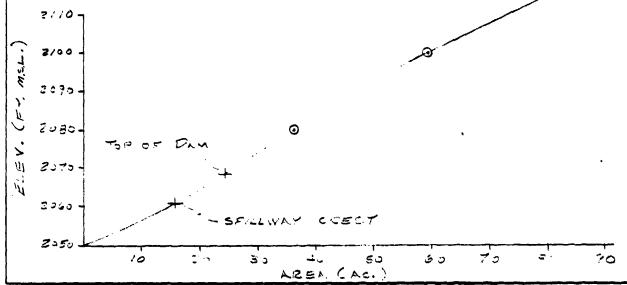
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L. ROBERT KIMBALL & ASSOCIATES
CONSULTING ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS

NUMBER PA. - 257
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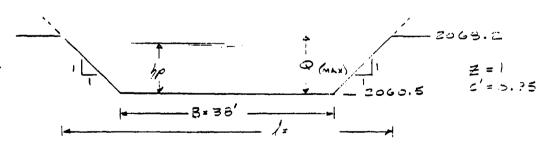
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TRAPEZDICAL FLOW (Q): Q (MAK)= 920 cfs.

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L. ROBERT KIMBALL & ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS EBENSBURG PENNSYLVANIA	SHEET NO. 3 OF 3-3/

ELEV. (FT)	hP (Cfs)	DISCHARGE Q (cfs)
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2068.2	7.7	27/0
2070.0	9.5	5820
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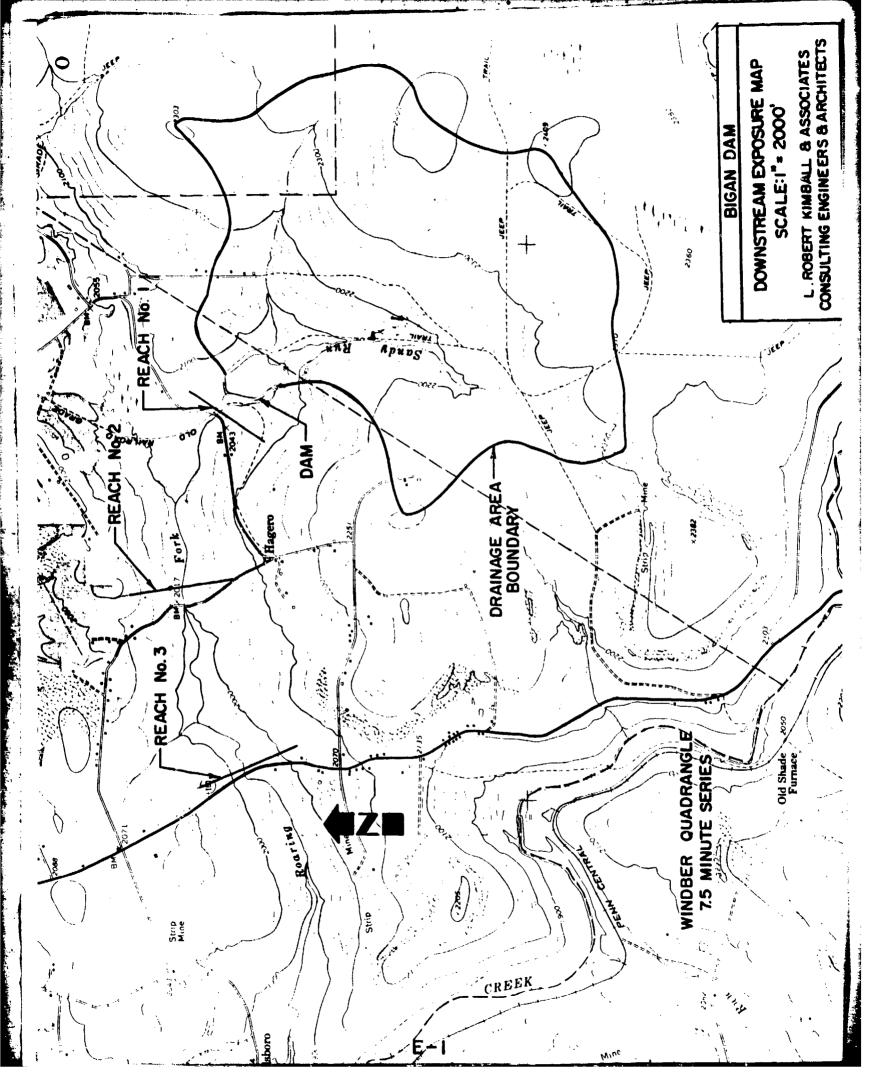
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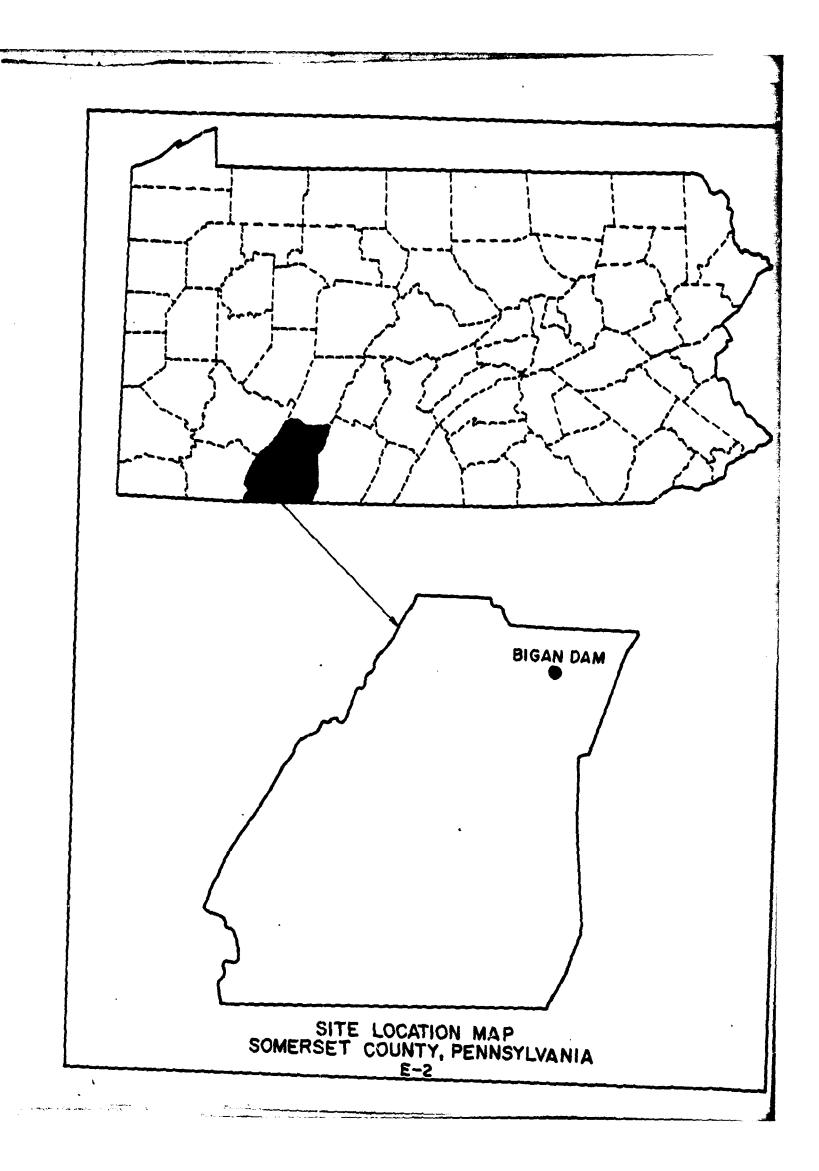
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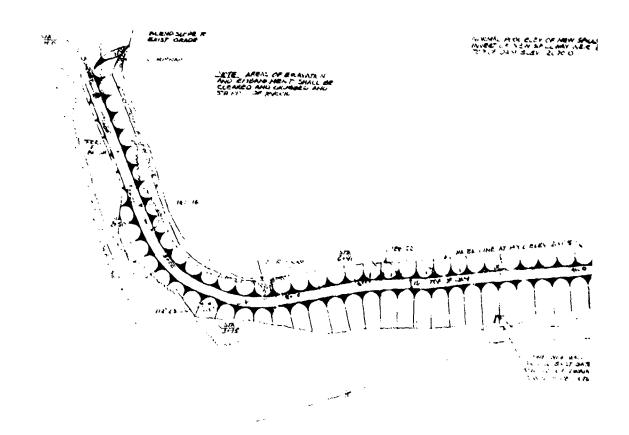
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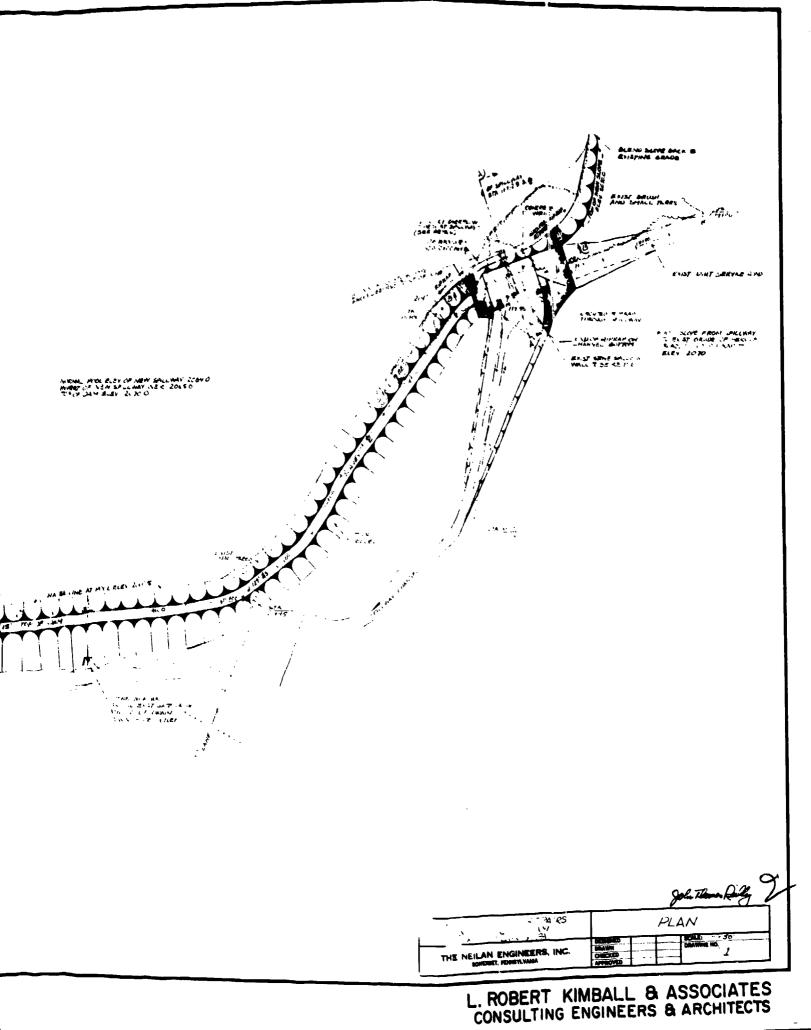
APPENDIX E DRAWINGS











PROGRAM SONO - 12" GROUPED ANALY

SE FILTER BLANKET

CONCRETE WEIR

AND CUTOFF WALL

TYPICAL
REINPORCING

1:0' 1:0' EXPANSION CAP

REPARSION CAP

EXPANSION CAP

EXPANSION CAP

EXPANSION CAP

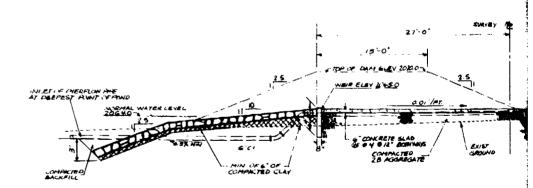
EXPANSION CAP

EXPANSION CAP

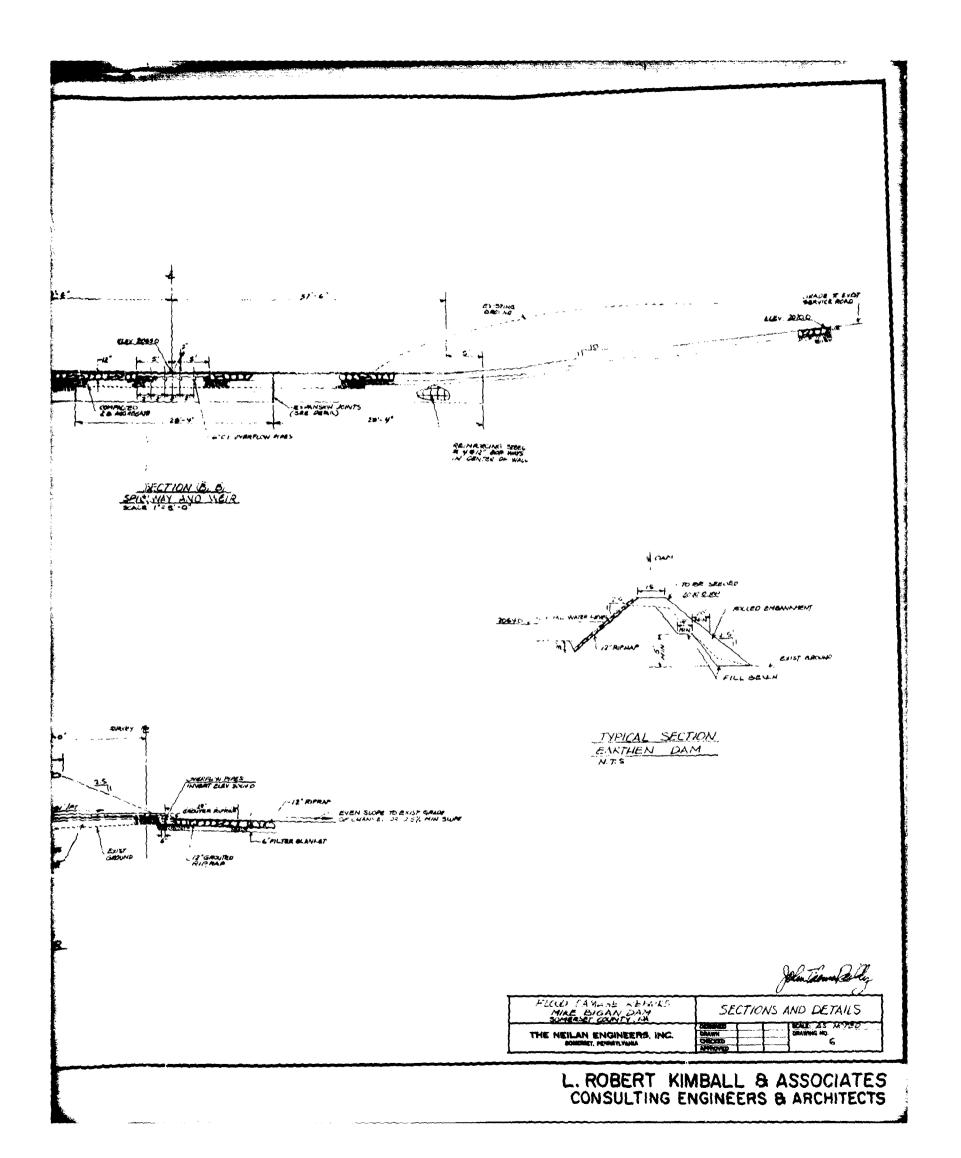
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SECTION (A)(A)
SPILLWAY AND WEIR
SCALE: 1::5:-0



APPENDIX F GEOLOGY

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(4)

General Geology

The Bigan Dam is located in the Allegheny Mountain Section of the Appalachian Plateaus Province. This section lies between the Pittsburgh Plateaus Section to the west and Valley and Ridge Province to the east. It is typified by rather open folds with flank dips generally ranging between 5 and 20 degrees. The folding is more intense than the folding in the Pittsburgh Plateau Section, but is unlike the Valley and Ridge Province in that the valleys between the ridges stand relatively high and are underlain by rather gently inclined strata. Structurally, there is a parallelism of northeast-trending ridges. The Bigan Dam lies on the eastern limb of the Somerset Syncline about three miles north of where the Negro Mountain Anticline terminates; therefore the common limb becomes the Deer Park Anticline which lies on the other side of the Allegheny Front. The strike of the strata in the vicinity of the dam is about N27° E, with a dip of about 3° NW. No major faulting is sited in this area.

The rock underlying the Bigan Dam consists of fine grained to conglomerate quartzose sandstone with some cross-bedding. Such strata are at the horizon of the Upper Cononquenessing Sandstone of the Pottsville Group of Pennsylvanian Age. Rocks of the Pottsville Group lie above the Mississippian Mauch Chunk Formation and extend upward to the base of the Brookville coal or its underclay when present. This group consists of alternations of shale, minor coal, clay, and major sandstones and has an average thickness of 150 feet. The Upper Connonquenessing Sandstone lies about midway in this group. Coal beds of this group, such as the Quakertown or Sharon coals, are notably irregular in thickness and structure, and may also be composed of several benches of coal.



GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE AREA AROUND THE BIGAN DAM SCALE 1:250,000

PENNSYLVANIAN

Conemaugh Formation

Colic sequences of red and gray shales and silistones with thin limestones and coils; massive Mithoning Sandstone commonly present at base; Ames Limestone present in middle of sections, Brush Creek Limestone in tower part of section.

Allegheny Group

Cueric sequences of sandstone, shale, lime-stone and coal componer commercial coals, limestones thicken westward. Van-port Limestones in lower part of vection includes. Freeport, Killenning, and Clarion Formations.

Pottsvills Group
Predominantly sandstones and conglowers
ates with this shales and coals, some voits
mineable locally.